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LOCAL ENTREPRENEUR WITH PASSION FOR OLD BUILDINGS HONORED WITH 2013 RUTH BYRNE HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARD

Glendale, Ariz. – David Chang was selected by the Glendale Historic Preservation Commission to receive the Ruth Byrne Award for 2013.

Chang, an active figure in Glendale as both a developer and a restaurateur, has a passion for revitalizing historic structures and turning these buildings into places that house modern uses. He was integral in several revitalization projects in Glendale's downtown area, with the first being the transformation of the Coury Building located at 6835 North 58th Drive. This structure was constructed in 1940 by H.D. McNeely and the Glendale Lumber Company for a local entrepreneur Tom Coury. Soon after construction, the building became home of a small grocery store that was owned by the Smart & Final Wholesale Company. Today the Coury Building houses Chang's culinary gem ZANG Asian Bistro. After a temporary closure, Chang will soon reopen the restaurant. Part of the Coury preservation efforts included refurbishing and exposing the original wood on the interior.

The second undertaking was the adaptive reuse of the Humphrey & Davidson Building located at 5819 West Glendale Avenue. This structure was originally constructed in 1895 to house dry goods for S. Humphrey and A. Davidson who were prominent agricultural shipping agents in Glendale. This space has been designed to be the home of an American Bistro. In addition, Chang is currently renovating the adjacent historic building, transforming

this site into the Star Venue which will be a multi-use performance space that will offer a dinner theatre, live entertainment, comedy shows, movies and more.

The third project was the revitalization of the Glendale State Bank Building located on the southeast corner of 58th Drive and Glendale Avenue. This building was originally built in 1909 by business leader and a first member of the City Council, C.L. Gillett and housed the city's first bank. Today Chang leases this space to The Storm Antique Store. All of his projects reflect a focus on preservation as he keeps the original style and design properties intact.

“Preserving the uniqueness of Glendale’s historic downtown is a core value for the city and Mr. Chang shares that vision to the point that his contributions have absolutely enhanced the economic redevelopment of the area,” said Planning Director Jon Froke. “His work, dedication and attention to detail have brought vibrancy and diversity to several historic downtown landmarks and based on these accomplishments, he was the ideal candidate for this year’s award.”

The Ruth Byrne Historic Preservation Award was established in 1996. The purpose of the award is to recognize individuals or organizations that have made significant contributions to the preservation of Glendale’s historic and cultural resources. This prestigious award is named after Ruth Byrne, a Glendale native, in honor of her dedicated work and ongoing efforts to preserve Glendale’s history.

The award was presented to Chang at a recent council meeting by Mayor Weiers. For more information on this award and the city’s historic preservation efforts, visit www.glendaleaz.com/planning.